HF Happenings 957

Operating Tip

Read The Rules - "...being familiar with a contest or an event's rules could reduce newbie questions by about half. And make them more successful to boot."

Learn to Listen – to the exchange given, the call sign and that QRP station calling!

The SARL HF Contests

The aim of the HF Contests is for participants to contact as many amateurs in Southern Africa as possible on the 20, 40 and 80 m amateur bands. The contest takes place over three Sundays in August.

The HF Phone contest runs from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC (16:00 to 19:00 CAT) on Sunday 1 August 2021 with activity between 14 125 to 14 300 kHz, 7 063 to 7 100 and 7 130 to 7 200 kHz and 3 603 to 3 650 and 3 700 to 3 800 kHz.

The exchange is a RS report and a consecutive serial number starting at 001. You can participate as a Single Operator Single Radio - Single Band or a Single Operator Single Radio - All Band station with the overlays 'Young Lady' and 'Youth.' You and fellow amateurs or your Club can participate as a Multi Operator Single Band or a Multi Operator All Band station.

The scoring has changed! One (1) point for a phone QSO; 1½ points for a digital QSO (15 August) and 2 points for a CW QSO (29 August).

Submit your log in ADIF, Cabrillo or MS Excel spreadsheet (preferred) by 23:59 CAT on Friday 6 August 2021 by e-mail to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za. PLEASE NOTE: the Cabrillo

July

26 – Maybe the provincial schools open today!
27 - Secunda ARC meeting
28 and 29 - Delta Aquarids MS

August

1 – the SARL HF Phone contest
7 - Durban ARC meeting
8 – New Moon
9 – National Women's Day; SARL YL Sprint; West Rand meeting
12 - International Youth Day
12 and 12a - Perseids MS
12a - Namibia schools close
14 - SARL Youth Sprint
14 and 15 - WAE CW contest
15 – SARL HF Digital contest
17 - PEARS and Border ARC meetings
21 - Magalies and Highway ARCs meeting
21 and 22 - International Lighthouse Weekend
22 – Full Moon
28 - CTARC meeting; SARL 40 m Grid Square sprint
29 – the SARK HF CW contest
31 – the Secunda ARC meeting

September

1 - Namibia schools open; National Arbor Week

and ADIF file carries NO contest scoring information! Please complete the summary sheet and submit it with your Cabrillo or ADIF file. When submitting your log, your call sign must appear in the file name, e.g., ZS2B SARL HF Phone Contest…. xlsx/.adi/.cbr.

Results of the SARL Winter QRP Contest

Eight logs were received for the Winter QRP Contest held on Saturday 17 July 2021. Contestants reported extremely poor propagation, high levels of noise and lots of QSB, but the Contest Committee cannot be blamed for that! Nonetheless QSOs were made and logged in the spirit of the hobby and the contest. Two newbie youth stations, Bryce, ZU1BM and Kiara, ZU1ISS participated. They set up a field station and were assisted by their father Phil, ZS1WW, who is himself a newbie. Great job, guys.

1st Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS – 243 points - Homebrew, ultra-portable station
2nd Johannes Van Zijl, ZS4DZ – 33 points - Home station
3rd Danie Schnetler, ZS6DPS and the West Rand ARC, ZS6WR – 24 points - Field stations
5th Bryce McLean, ZU1BM and Phil McLean, ZS1WW – 12 points - Field stations
7th Kiara McLean, ZU1ISS – 8 points - Field station
8th Veronica Kotze, ZR6TVK – 4 points - Home station

Results after the third leg of the QRP Contest. Twenty four stations have submitted logs for past three legs of the SARL QRP contest. Unfortunately, only the top 10 were provided.
1st Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS – 1 395 points
2nd Danie Schnetler, ZS6DPS – 396 points
3rd Nico Oelofse, ZS4N – 288 points
4th Phillip van Tonder, ZS6PVT – 277 points
5th Stephanus Janse van Rensburg, ZS6PYP – 264 points
6th West Rand Amateur Radio Club, ZS6WR – 244 points
7th Johannes van Zijl, ZS4DZ – 148 points
8th Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society, ZS2PE – 138 points
9th Johan Swanepoel, ZS6JHN – 99 points
10th Gert du Plessis, ZR6GRT – 70 points

Results of the 2021 ZS2 Sprint

16 logs were received for the 2021 ZS2 Sprint held on Sunday 18 July 2021.
1st Michael Steenkamp, ZS2MIC – 79 points
2nd Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society, ZS2PE - 57 points
3rd Gert Schoeman, ZS2GS - 48 points
4th Gerhard Coetzee, ZS3TG - 45 points
5th Garth Moore, ZS2AAR and Kevern Burger, ZR2BK - 43 points
7th Esme Walsh, ZS3EW; Roy Walsh, ZS3RW and Keith Barker, ZS6HI - 32 points
10th Charles le Roux, ZS1CF - 23 points
11th Frans van Kradenburg, ZS4FP; Morne Janse van Vuuren, ZR6MN and Dienie Schnetler, ZS6DNI - 22 points
14th Nick Dreyer, ZS1N - 20 points
15th Sid Tyler, ZS5H/2 and Gerhard Gericke, ZS6CRS - 16 points

Results of the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

Twenty-five logs were received for the 4th SARL Wednesday 80 m sprint and the participants made 181 QSOs (104 grids and 99 Clubs.) Interesting was that in a certain area, one station worked 9J, A2 and ZS stations, another station worked a new grid and Club with each QSO and then there were those that struggled to work wider than their Club!

1st the West Rand ARC – 249 points (11 logs)
2nd the Boland ARC – 160 points (6 logs)
3rd the Bloemfontein ARC – 54 points (1 log)
4th the Hibiscus Coast ARC – 51 points (2 logs)
5th the Pretoria ARC – 50 points (1 log)
6th the Northern Cape ARC – 39 points (1 log)
7th the Sandton ARC – 25 points (1 log)
8th the Cape Radio Group – 21 points (1 log)
9th the Sasolburg ARC – 20 points (1 log)

1st Andre, ZS1AN - 59 points
2nd Andre, ZS4AW - 54 points
3rd Hans, ZS6KR - 50 points
4th Adriaan, ZS1ADL and Romeo, ZS6ARQ - 42 points
6th Gerhard, ZS3TG - 39 points
7th Anthony, ZS6ANT - 38 points
8th Ean, ZS1PR - 35 points
9th Sid, ZS5H/2 - 32 points
10th Veronica, ZR6TVK and Jack, ZS6JJK - 28 points
12th Kobus, ZS6BOS - 27 points
13th Keith, ZS6HI - 25 points
14th Dienie, ZS6DNI and Danie, ZS6DPS - 23 points
16th Celso, ZS1MYG - 21 points
17th Frans, ZS4FP - 20 points
18th Heather, ZS5YH - 19 points
19th Gert, ZR6GRT - 16 points
20th Marius, ZS1ML and Phillip, ZS6PVT - 14 points
22nd Albert, ZS1AK; Emil, ZS1XB; Joseph, ZS6JOE and Roger, ZS6YX – 5 points

After four sprints
1st the West Rand ARC – 2 427 points
2nd the Boland ARC – 1 112 points
3rd the Bo-Karoo ARC – 605 points
4th the Pretoria ARC – 348 points
5th the Bloemfontein ARC – 336 points
6th the Hibiscus Coast ARC – 301 points
7th the Northern Cape ARC – 237 points
8th the Sandton ARC - 165 points
9th the Mooi River ARC – 152 points
10th the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre – 72 points
11th the Magalies Radio Club – 68 points
12th the Kimberley ARC – 54 points
13th the Kempton Park Amateur Radio Technical Society – 42 points
14th the Johannesburg ARC – 38 points
15th the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society – 31 points
16th Vrystaat ARC – 25 points
17th the Cape Radio Group – 21 points
18th the Sasolburg ARC – 20 points

DX from Africa

Egypt. SU1SK pirated! Said Kamel, SU1SK, President of the Egyptian Radio Amateurs Society (ERASD), reports that his call sign has been repeatedly pirated on FT8 over the past few days: 10 July on 17 and 30 m; 18 July on 10 m and 19 July on 20 m.

The new QSL route for the genuine SU1SK is via JH1AT (direct). Said has no PayPal account; he uploads his log to eQSL but does not use LoTW.

Rwanda, 9X. Harald, DF2WO, will once again be active as 9X2AW from Kigali (with a new Grid KI48XE) between 13 and 28 September. He is currently preparing his 160 m antenna and will build a Hexbeam with Bamboo Sticks for working on 20 - 10 meters and dipoles for 40/30 meters. Modes are mainly Digital modes (PSK31, JT65, RTTY and FT8), with some CW and SSB. QSL via M0OXO or his OQRS. See QRZ.com for pictures.
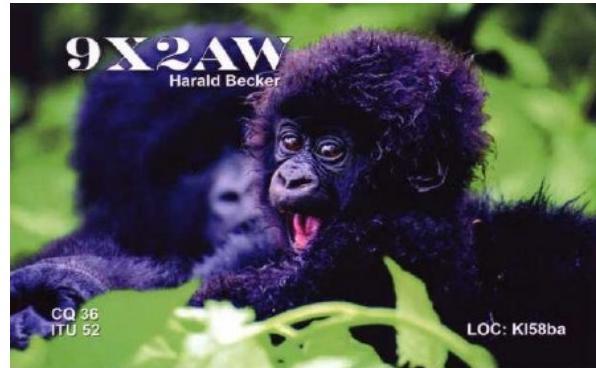
3Y0I Bouvet Island DXpedition. The following was posted on the Rebel DX Group's FaceBook page (https://www.facebook.com/rebeldxgroup) on 20 July: It is still on the go. Everything is ready. Hope Covid and current crazy internal situation in South Africa will not disturb us to go this season.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests as compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 26 July to 2 August 2021.

K1USN Slow Speed Test
00:00 - 01:00 UTC 26 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Maximum 20 wpm - Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each state/province/country once per band; W/VE do not count as country mults
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 28 July 2021
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html

QCX Challenge
13:00 - 14:00 UTC 26 July and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 26 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 27 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: HP: >5 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, name, state, province or country and rig
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 3 points per QSO with QCX station; 1 point per QSO with non-QCX station
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 04:00 UTC 1 August 2021
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.qrp-labs.com/party.html

RSGB FT4 Contest Series
19:00 - 20:30 UTC 26 July
Geographic Focus: United Kingdom
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: FT4
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: 100 W; 10 W
Exchange: 4-character grid square
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each large locator square
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 20:30 UTC 27 July 2021
Upload log at: https://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
https://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2021/r80m_ft4.shtml

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest
01:00 - 01:59 UTC 27 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high - Overlay: Youth (26 years old or younger); Youth YL (female 26 years old or younger); YL (female older than 26 years
Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: RS and age group (OM, YL, Youth YL or Youth)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with OM; 5 points per QSO with YL; 10 points per QSO with Youth; 15 points per QSO with Youth YL
Multipliers: Each DXCC once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 01:59 UTC 28 July 2021

E-mail logs to: (none)
Upload log at: https://logs.wwsac.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://wwsac.com/rules.html

RTTYOPS Week Sprint
17:00 - 19:00 UTC 27 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op
Max operating hours: 2 hours
Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 3 August 2021
E-mail logs to: rtty-week-tuesday@rttyops.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://rttyops.com/

SKCC Sprint
00:00 - 02:00 UTC 28 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: Single-Op - QRPp, QRP, QRO or QRO plus; Multi-Op
Max power: QRO plus: >100 watts; QRO: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts; QRPp: 1 watt
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and SKCC no or "NONE"
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: Each state, province, or country once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 30 July 2021
E-mail log summary to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/submit-display.php
Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:
http://www.skccgroup.com/operating_activities/weekday_sprint/

Phone Weekly Test – Fray
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 July
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 m
Classes: Single Op
Max power: 100 watts
Exchange: NA: Name and state, province or country; non-NA: Name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: NA station: 1 point per QSO; non-NA station: 1 point per QSO with an NA station
Multipliers: Each US state (including KH6/KL7) once per band; Each VE province/territory once per band; Each North American country (except W/VE) once per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 03:00 UTC 30 July 2021
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.perluma.com/Phone_Fray_Contest_Rules.pdf

CWops Mini-CWT Test
13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 28 July and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC and 07:00 - 08:00 UTC 29 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Awards: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Member: Name and member no or "CWA"; non-Member: Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each call once

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 08:00 UTC 31 July 2021
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: https://cwops.org/cwops-tests/

RTTYOPS Week Sprint
17:00 - 19:00 UTC 29 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op
Max operating hours: 2 hours
Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC August 5, 2021
E-mail logs to: rtty-week-thursday@rttyops.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://rttyops.com/

EACW Meeting
19:00 - 20:00 UTC 29 July
Geographic Focus: Spain
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 80, 40 m
Classes: Single Op
Exchange: EACW Member: RST, member no and nickname; EA non-Member: RST, nickname and EA province; non-EA: RST, nickname and DXCC prefix
Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 31 July 2021
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
https://www.eacwspain.es/sample-page/eacwmeeting/

QRP Fox Hunt
01:00 - 02:30 UTC 30 July
Geographic Focus: United States
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 20 m Only
Classes: Single Op - fox or hound
Max power: 5 watts
Exchange: RST, state, province or country, name and power output
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: (none)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points
Submit logs by: 02:30 UTC 31 July 2021
E-mail logs to: (see rules)
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/summer_rules.htm

NCCC RTTY Sprint
01:45 - 02:15 UTC 30 July
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: RTTY
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 1 August 2021
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rttyns.html

NCCC Sprint
02:30 - 03:00 UTC 30 July
Geographic Focus: North America
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: Serial no, name and QTH
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 1 August 2021
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html

K1USN Slow Speed Test
20:00 - 21:00 UTC 30 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Maximum 20 wpm - Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each state/province/country once per band; W/VE do not count as country mults
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 1 August 2021
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html

Feld Hell Sprint
00:00 - 23:59 UTC 31 July
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: Feld Hell
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 m
Classes: (none)
Max power: Standard: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: (see rules)
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: (see rules)
Bonus Points: (see rules)
Multipliers: (see rules)
Score Calculation: (see rules)
Submit logs by: 3 August 2021
Upload log at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
https://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home/contests/sprints/worked-all-americas-sprint

Russian WW Multi-Mode Contest
12:00 UTC 31 July to 11:59 UTC 1 August
Mode: CW, SSB, RTTY, BPSK63
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band Single Mode – CW, SSB, RTTY or BPSK63; Single Op All Band Mixed; Single Op High Bands Mixed; Single Op Low Bands Mixed; Multi-Single Mixed; SWL
Exchange: UA: RST(Q) and 2-character oblast; non-UA: RST(Q) and QSO no
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO with same country on 20/15/10 m; 3 points per QSO with different country same continent on 20/15/10 m; 5 points per QSO with different continue on 20/15/10 m; 2 points per QSO with same country on 160/80/40 m; 6 points per QSO with different country same continent on 160/80/40 m; 10 points per QSO with different continue on 160/80/40 m
Multipliers: Each DXCC country once per mode per band; Each oblast once per mode per band
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 6 August 2021
E-mail logs to: rusww@rdrclub.ru

Upload log at:
http://ua9qcq.com/en/submit_log.php?lang=en
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.rdrclub.ru/news-radio/russian-ww-mm-contest/159-rus-ww-multimode-contest
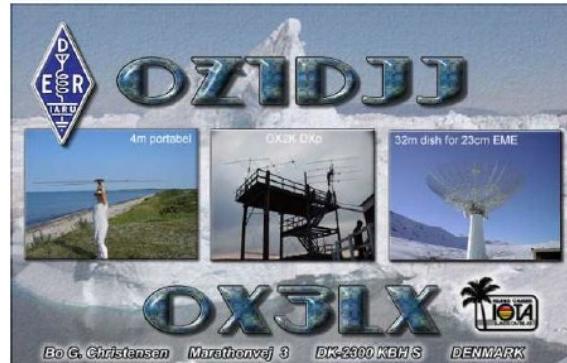
Missouri QSO Party
14:00 UTC 31 July to 04:00 UTC 1 August and 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 1 August
Geographic Focus: United States/Canada state/province QSO party
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW, Phone, Digital
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, VHF/UHF
Classes: Missouri Fixed - Single Op - QRP, low or high or Multi-Op - Fixed Overlay: Rookie; Missouri Expedition - Single Op - QRP, low or high or Multi-Op; Missouri Mobile - Single Op LP – CW, SSB or mixed or Multi-Multi Unlimited or Multi-Op LP; Missouri School Club; Non-Missouri - Single Op - QRP, low or high or Multi-Op or Canada; DX - Single-Op or Multi-Op
Max power: HP: >150 watts; LP: 150 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: MO: RS(T) and county; non-MO W/VE: RS(T) and state, province or territory; DX: RS(T) and "DX"
Work stations: Once per band per mode
QSO Points: 1 point per phone QSO; 2 points per CW/digital QSO; Bonus: 100 points for at least one QSO with a special event station (W0MA, K0GQ); 100 points for submitting a Cabrillo log electronically
Multipliers: MO: Each MO county, state, province and territory once; MO: Maximum of one DXCC country once; Non-MO: Each MO county once
Score Calculation: Total score = (total QSO points x total mults) and bonus

Submit logs by: 31 August 2021
E-mail logs to: moqsoparty@w0ma.org
Mail logs to: Boeing Employees' Amateur Radio Society W0MA, c/o George Mackus, AB0RX, 11841 Wexford Place Drive, Maryland Heights, MO 63043, USA
Find rules at:
http://www.w0ma.org/index.php/missouri-qso-party

SARL HF Phone Contest
14:00 - 17:00 UTC 1 August
Geographic Focus: Southern Africa
Participation: Southern Africa
Mode: SSB
Bands: 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op All Band; Single Op Single Band; Multi-Op All Band; Multi-Op Single Band
Exchange: RS and Serial no
Score Calculation: (see rules)

Submit logs by: 6 August 2021
E-mail logs to: zs4bfn@mweb.co.za
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at:
http://www.sarl.org.za/public/contests/contestrules.asp

K1USN Slow Speed Test
00:00 - 01:00 UTC 2 August
Geographic Focus: Worldwide
Participation: Worldwide
Mode: CW
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20 m
Classes: Single Op - QRP, low or high
Max power: HP: >100 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts
Exchange: Maximum 20 wpm - Name and state, province or country
Work stations: Once per band
QSO Points: 1 point per QSO
Multipliers: Each state/province/country once per band; W/VE do not count as country mults
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC August 4, 2021
Post log summary at:
http://www.3830scores.com
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: http://www.k1usn.com/sst.html

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 - 03:00 UTC 3 August
Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, 01:00 - 01:59 UTC 3 August
RTTYOPS Week Sprint, 17:00 - 19:00 UTC 3 August
Phone Weekly Test – Fray, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 4 August
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 4 August and 03:00 - 04:00 UTC and 07:00 - 08:00 UTC 5 August
NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 17:00 - 18:00 UTC (CW) and 18:00 - 19:00 UTC (SSB) and 19:00 - 20:00 UTC (FM) and 20:00 - 21:00 UTC (Dig) 5 August
RTTYOPS Week Sprint, 17:00 - 19:00 UTC 5 August
SKCC Sprint Europe, 19:00 - 21:00 UTC 5 August
EACW Meeting, 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 5 August
QRP Fox Hunt, 01:00 - 02:30 UTC 6 August
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 6 August
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 6 August
K1USN Slow Speed Test, 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 6 August
Batavia FT8 Contest, 00:00 UTC 7 August to 23:59 UTC 8 August
10-10 International Summer SSB Contest, 00:01 UTC 7 August to 23:59 UTC 8 August
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 12:00 UTC 7 August to 24:00 UTC 8 August
European HF Championship, 12:00 - 23:59 UTC 7 August
FISTS Saturday Sprint, 16:00 - 18:00 UTC 7 August

North American CW QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 7 August to 05:59 UTC 8 August

4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint, 00:00 - 02:00 UTC 9 August

K1USN Slow Speed Test, 00:00 - 01:00 UTC 9 August

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, 01:00 - 01:59 UTC 10 August

RTTYOPS Week Sprint, 17:00 - 19:00 UTC 10 August

https://sarlnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/hfhappenings/ and www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

Making the CI-V Connection

CI-V stands for Computer Interface V (V representing the Roman numeral for 5). This is Icom's name for its rig interface to a computer or to another rig. Other manufacturers such as Yaesu refer to this as CAT (Computer-Aided Transceiver). You can find it on most HF and some VHF rigs manufactured since the 1980s and its basic operating structure hasn't changed much since then.

However, manufacturers never settled on a standard protocol. Each manufacturer typically implements its own version. Icom kept the same protocol across its many transceivers, while Yaesu generally wrote a new protocol for every new radio. CAT and CI-V are infrequently used on VHF/UHF radios because most operations are on channels rather than frequencies.

Operation

To keep things simple, I will use CI-V to represent both CI-V and CAT interfaces since they essentially perform the same function. I will also refer specifically to the IC-7300 for examples since it is a well-known transceiver.

A CI-V interface is a piece of hardware that connects the radio and the PC, allowing them to communicate with each other. The CI-V interface itself does not do any communicating – it only provides the correct voltage levels or protocol required by both. The actual communication itself is between the radio and the software on the PC.

Using a CI-V program and interface allows you to control your radio from the PC. Changes you make (volume, tuning, RF gain, etc.) will be shown on the PC's screen via your software. Functionality depends on the radio's capabilities and what features the software writers included in the CI-V program.

Generally speaking, the more modern the radio, the more CI-V functionality it will have. CI-V is also useful on radios where there are multiple submenus in the menu system, allowing items to be easily changed via the PC. On many HF radios, the CI-V system is also used to program the memories on the radio, but you will need the appropriate programming software.

But there is more – it is not just a clone of your rig controls. If you run a logging program that supports CI-V, that software may take advantage of the CI-V system by retrieving frequency information to help fill in log details. You can use digital mode software such as Fldigi to control the radio using the computer and CI-V port.

In addition to controlling the radio, CI-V can connect to a variety of station hardware to facilitate in-shack or remote operation via a PC. CI-V can send frequency and status information that can be used by a remote antenna controller, rotor box, or coax switch connected to multiple antennas. For example, the Green Heron RT-21 is equipped with an RS-232 port and a USB "B" connection. Virtually all software that supports rotor control via a COM port can be used with the RT-21.

The Hamplus Desktop Antenna Switch AS-603AL operates directly from the CI-V with the appropriate radio interface cable. It has rear panel connectors to support up to three transceivers– even different models. The AS-603AL supports communication via Icom's CI-V remote port and via an

RS-232 COM port for Kenwood, Elecraft, Yaesu, or others that use a compatible communication protocol.

Technical Details

The IC-7300 transceiver provides two separate ways to connect to the interface: through the USB port and through the remote jack.
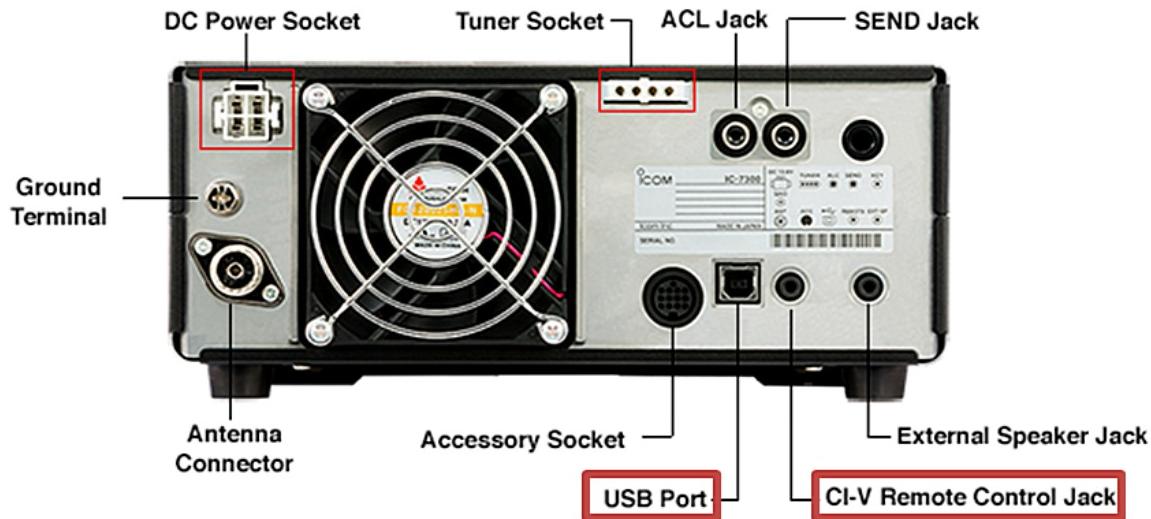
CI-V settings are located in the IC-7300 SETUP menu. Choose "CONNECTORS, CI-V" and there are two pages of settings that follow. Most software that addresses the CI-V port uses default settings found in the radio, so it is likely you'll make few or no changes in the settings.

Either the computer or a transceiver can send data; each can receive by simply sensing the voltage on the line. Each transceiver must be identified by an address – a hexadecimal number. Up to 19 200 bps is possible and it is best to try to use the highest possible speed. The IC-7300 also has an auto option for speed detection, so make sure to set your radio and the PC to AUTO or check that the same speed is set in manual mode.

Want to connect two rigs? You need nothing more than a shielded cable with two 3,5 mm mini jacks. The CI-V protocol uses single-byte addresses to communicate with individual rigs on the line. Each model has its own default address. If two or more rigs of the same model are connected to the bus, the addresses have to be changed so each has its own unique address. The number of rigs on a line is not limited, in theory, but Icom recommends a maximum of four units on a single line.

If your radio only has the remote mini jack and no RS232 DB9 connector, you can use an adapter. The West Mountain Radio RIGtalk RT1 USB emulates a serial port at the computer but communicates with a radio at TTL voltage levels.

Is CI-V for you?

Modern radios have more CI-V functionality when used with a PC, including rig control, logging assistance and control of accessories in your shack. Explore what this interface can do to help your station become more flexible and efficient.